

REMARKS

Prior to the Examiner's Amendment dated November 15, 2006, Claim 1 recited:

incision portions that make, with the longitudinal direction Y of the tread, an average angle β at most equal to 15° (see the first subparagraph of claim 1), and

additional incision portions which do not form an angle β with the longitudinal direction (see the final subparagraph of claim 1).

The "additional" incision portions were intended to include, for example, the incision portions D-E, F-G, and H-I, shown in Fig. 3 (marked-up copy attached), wherein the incision portions F-G and H-I are shown in cross section in Figs. 4 and 5, respectively. It can be seen from the attachment that each of those incision portions F-G and H-I forms an angle of 90° with the longitudinal direction Y.

In the Examiner's Amendment the "additional" incision portions were renamed "other" incision portions in claim 1, and reference to such "other" incision portions as not forming the angle β was deleted from the claim.

Applicants would like to reclaim, by way of new independent claim 13, the fact that the "other" incision portions do not form the angle β with the longitudinal direction, i.e., that the angle formed by the "other" incision portions is different from the angle β . In that regard, the angle β is recited in claim 1 as being "at most equal to 15° ". Thus, the angle of the "other" incision portions would be outside of the range $0-15^\circ$, e.g., they could form the 90° angle shown in Fig. 3.

Attention is directed to an error made in the remarks section of the
Amendment filed October 15, 2006 in which the following sentence appeared:

That subject matter has been supplemented to recite that it relates to
additional incision portions that do not form an angle β (or stated
otherwise, where $\beta = 0$). An example of such an additional incision
portions can be seen in Figs. 5 and 5 which form opposite inclinations.
Instead of saying $\beta = 0$, it was intended to say that $\beta = 90^\circ$, as shown in Fig. 3
discussed above. Also, it was intended that Figs. 4 and 5 be referred to.

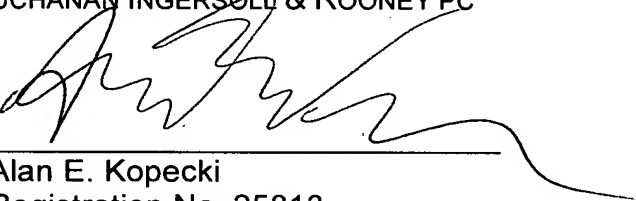
Therefore, it is requested that the entry of new claim 13 be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

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